

REMARKS

These remarks are set forth in response to the non-final office action mailed June 16, 2005 (the "Office Action"). As this amendment has been timely filed within the three-month statutory period, neither an extension of time nor a fee is required. Presently, claims 1 through 12 are pending in the Patent Application. In paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 6 through 7 and 11 through 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,834,800 to Okamura. Moreover, in paragraphs 3 and 4, claims 2 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura. Finally, in paragraph 5, claims 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10 have been objected to only in as much as each depends upon a rejected base claim. Otherwise, the Examiner has indicated that each of claims 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10 are allowable.

In response, the Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7. Moreover, the Applicants have re-written claims 4, 8, 9 and 10 to incorporate the limitations of the base claim. (Claim 5 requires no amendment as it depends from the amended claim 4). Finally, the Applicants have amended claim 11 to incorporate the limitations of the amended form of allowable claim 9 and claim 12 requires no amendment as it depends from a presumptively allowable claim 11.

Thus, all rejections under the art are viewed as having been overcome by the amendments to the claims and an Applicants believe that claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 stand patentable and ready for an indication of allowance. To that end, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) based upon the Applicants' amendments to the claims, and owing to the foregoing remarks. This entire application is now

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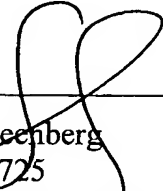
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believed to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, such action is respectfully requested.

The Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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